

Appl. No. 09/529,575
Atty. Docket No. 7042R
Amdt. dated January 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2005
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-30. (Canceled)
31. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article comprising a liquid pervious topsheet that at least a portion of which comprises a protease inhibitor, wherein the topsheet of the article comprises from about 0.0001% to about 30%, by weight, of the protease inhibitor; the protease inhibitor has an IC_{50} of about 500 μM or less, as measured by a General Fecal Protease Method; the protease inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of 4-(2-aminoethyl)-benzenesulfonylfluoride hydrochloride, hexamidine and its salts, pentamidine and its salts, and mixtures thereof; and wherein an extract of at least a portion of the article produces at least a 10% reduction in substrate hydrolysis by a protease in an Absorbent Article Test Method.
32. (Original) The article of claim 31 wherein the IC_{50} is no more than 100 μM .
- 33-35. (Canceled)
36. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 31 wherein the extract of at least a portion of the absorbent article produces a 20% reduction in substrate hydrolysis by a protease in an Absorbent Article Test Method.
- 37-40. (Canceled)
41. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 31, wherein the topsheet of absorbent article further comprises a delivery system for releasably containing and delivering the protease inhibitor to at least a portion of the skin of a wearer of the article ~~and wherein said delivery system and the delivery system contains the protease inhibitor.~~

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42. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 41, wherein the delivery system is in the form of a skin care composition and the skin care composition comprises from about 0.01% to about 50%, by weight, of the protease inhibitor.
43. (Original) The article of claim 42, wherein the skin care composition is transferable to the skin of a wearer.
44. (Original) The article of claim 41, wherein the delivery system comprises a microcapsule, an absorbent material, a cell, an adhesive, a skin care composition, a nanophase particulate structure, a solid support, or combinations thereof.
45. (Original) The article of claim 41, wherein the delivery system is activatable by moisture, heat, or pressure, or combination thereof, and wherein the delivery system releases the protease inhibitor when activated.
46. (Original) The article of claim 41, wherein the delivery system contains the protease inhibitor as a powder, a flake, a particle, a solution, a suspension, a dispersion, an emulsion, or combination thereof.
47. (Canceled)
48. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 31, wherein the topsheet ~~absorbent article~~ comprises a wearer-contacting surface having the protease inhibitor disposed on at least a portion thereof.
- 49-51. (Canceled)
52. (Currently Amended) The article of claim ~~51~~31, wherein the topsheet comprises one or more regions that do not contain the skin care composition.
53. (Currently Amended) The article of claim ~~51~~31, wherein the skin care composition is disposed on the topsheet in a plurality of stripes.